

CAREER, Jimmy

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CIA-01 TURNER,

Adm

(orig under Carter)

PRESS CONFERENCE NO. 48

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 30, 1979

MONDAY

4:00 P.M. EDT

Room 450

Old Executive Office Building  
Washington, D. C.

THE PRESIDENT: Good afternoon, everybody.

I have a brief opening statement concerning one of our most important domestic issues, and that is energy.

Last month, I sent to the Congress, as requested by the Congress, a stand-by gasoline rationing plan. This plan would give us the opportunity to anticipate and to plan for possible gasoline shortages in the future. Without the plan, it would take us six or seven months to prepare such a plan if we were faced with a severe shortage of gasoline brought about by an interruption in supplies.

Tomorrow, the House Commerce Committee will have another very important vote to determine whether or not we will even have a stand-by plan to deal with such an emergency. It is imperative for our Nation's energy preparedness that the committee approve this stand-by gasoline rationing plan.

If, after the plan is evolved, it needs to be implemented, both the Congress and the President would have to approve before it goes into effect. It is a simple matter of common sense for us to do everything we possibly can to reduce our vulnerability to another oil embargo, or a Middle East crisis, or an interruption in our own domestic supplies.

We do not face any of these contingencies now, but we must be prepared for the worst. We must make certain that gasoline can be distributed promptly and fairly in case of an emergency.

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No one likes gasoline rationing and we would not do it if it is possible. But I will not hide from my responsibility to the